

Remarks

Claims 1, 3, 4, 8-18 and 20 were pending.

Claim 8 is canceled.

Claims 1 and 17 are amended.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 9-18 and 20 are now pending.

The claims are amended to delete sorbitan esters as a surfactant of component c).

No new matter is added.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 8-14 and 16-18 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rosenthal, et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,864,308.

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rosenthal in view of Mehta, et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,844,389.

Claim 20 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rosenthal in view of Sun, U.S. Pat. No. 5,912,292.

Rosenthal is cited as disclosing melt blending a polyolefin, a smectite clay and an intercalating agent such as sorbitan monostearate or sorbitan tristearate.

Mehta is cited as disclosing a polymer concentrate.

Sun is cited as teaching a nucleating agent for polyolefin film.

Applicants submit that these rejections are overcome by amendment. The cited references do not teach the presently required dimethylsiloxane-ethylene oxide-block copolymer or poly(methyl methacrylate)-block-poly(oxyethylene) copolymer surfactants.

Claims 1, 3, 8-14 and 16-18 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kotani, et al., U.S. Pat. No. 5,851,682 in view of evidence found in Sekiyama, et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,150,450.

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kotani in view of Mehta.

Claim 20 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kotani in view of Sun.

Kotani is cited as disclosing polyolefins that contain a layered hydroxycarbonate filler. The compositions may also contain sorbitan esters.

Applicants submit that these rejections are also addressed by amendment. Kotani does not disclose the presently required dimethylsiloxane-ethylene oxide-block copolymer or poly(methyl methacrylate)-block-poly(oxyethylene) copolymer surfactants.

Claims 1, 4, 8-11, 13, 14 and 16-18 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Panek, et al., U.S. 2004/0110881.

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Panek in view of Rosenthal.

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Panek in view of Mehta.

Claim 20 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Panek in view of Sun.

Panek is cited as disclosing polypropylene comprising mica and a sorbitan ester.

Again, Applicants submit that these rejections are overcome by amendment. Panek does not disclose the present dimethylsiloxane-ethylene oxide-block copolymer or poly(methyl methacrylate)-block-poly(oxyethylene) copolymer surfactants.

In view of the present amendments, Applicants submit that each of the claim rejections are addressed and are overcome.

The Examiner is kindly requested to reconsider and to withdraw the present rejections.

Applicants submit that the present claims are now in condition for allowance and respectfully request that they be found allowable.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment: Petition for a 2 month extension of time